

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# MARC

"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"

Volume XIV No.11

November 1997

## Tame Trick-or-treaters



Beggars night in Johnson County didn't turn out to be as frightening as some hams expected. Nearly a dozen Amateur Radio operators took to the roads around Johnson County to assist the sheriff's department with their Goblin Patrol. Goblins

looking for treats were not the problem. Older goblins looking to play tricks were the target of law enforcement personnel. This was the eleventh year Mid-State ARC members helped in preventing Halloween pranks.

The only reported incident came when net control operator Bill Brinkmann-AA9UV reported to the Emergency Operations Center to run the net. It seems the sheriff had just changed the locks to the building and no one could find the key to the ham radio room. Bill ran to the home of Joe Rogers-KF9LQ, where he commandeered Joe's base station for the net. Joe helped Bill with the check-ins while wife Barbara-KB9NOC handled the local beggars. Bill used a direct line to the sheriff dispatchers for communications and coordination.

All of the hams were charged with the responsibility of checking local schools, churches cemeteries and highway over passes. According to county officials the use of Amateur Radio operators in unmarked vehicles has

resulted in fewer reports of vandalism on beggars night. The extra cars provide a measure of safety to the Trick-or-treaters.

Our thanks to all the participating mobile operators: KG9DR--Bill Bennett, KB9LOT--Dave Dailey, KB9JQO--Kim Miles, KA9OOH--Dave Wendt, N9NZI--Steve Benson, KB9PWN--Larry, KB9KDK--Lee Porter, WD9DVA--Ed Woods, KC4CRH--Bernard Meyer, KA9SWI--Pete Lenges and NT9J--Jack Parker. This was the eleventh year for the MARC Goblin Patrol. --MARC



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# SPARK GAP

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## *Membership Information*

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is a Franklin Based organization open to all Amateur Radio operators in central Indiana.

The MARC meets the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, In.

The MARC operates a 2-meter repeater at 146.835 Mhz. Each club member has free access to the repeater and autopatch.

Annual dues are \$18.00. VE Testing follows each meeting from March through November.

Submit stories to the editor on disk or via e-mail by the 3rd of each month.

Send change-of-address info and membership application to the club treasurer @ MARC , P.O. Box 836, Franklin, In. 46131.

The Spark Gap is published monthly by the Mid-State ARC.



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**Happy**  **Thanksgiving**

# DC or Bust

by Ed Woods, WD9DVA

This began on a rainy Tuesday (9/7) heading out of Indy on I-70 to Harrisburg, PA. The only ham gear was the 2-meter FT2400. Somewhere between Columbus, OH & H'burg we began to run into the frustrations of the PL controlled 2-meter repeaters. I made one promise to myself, don't ever belong to a club with a PL system that doesn't announce the "tones" every 30 minutes. Thru the trip by listening to these types of machines you soon had a feeling that some operators feel that "PL" means "no one wants to break in". The QSO's were running and never a pause by either party. This is one good reason for carrying a sack of cd's. The XYL is reading, so what do you do till lunch? So much for the PL systems.

We hit H'burg at about 7PM EDT. Got checked in & went searching for a good bar & grill. We found it! Oakleys, the only Irish bar & grill in a very German community. Very much a Notre Dame place. They celebrate March 17th in a big way, but added to that is their Sept 17th celebration. Sept 17th is half way to March 17th. I tried every argument in the book for us to stay over, but Dee would have none of it. Considering the way Purdue "played with" the Irish the next Saturday it is best we went on. The XYL knows all. Oakleys would (price wise) fall in between a Grindstone Charlies & Carvers.

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## Going in circles

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The next morning, based upon the AAA "Trip Tik", indicated a breeze into Manhattan NY from NJ so, we side tripped ourselves to the Hershey PA, & the Hershey plant tour. The XYL thought it was just wonderful (me; one plant's just like anyother). We are now thru lunch & sailing along thru NJ on their "world class" turnpikes. NJ turnpike management has to be political appointments. Why you ask, because the toll-house keepers (we aint' talking cookies) had to be related to someone. Between a 1st class AAA screw up & the NJ turnpikes' lack of signage, I was convinced the rest of my life would be spent in a loop on about 6 miles of the turnpike trying to hit the Lincoln tunnel. Strange thoughts begin to build as for the second time you missed the mark: (a) after you run out of cash do they accept "plastic" or traveler's checks? (b) God bless those PL repeaters! (c) How do they deliver your food, etc while your out here driving around? With a lot of prayer & a few threats, we

hit the tunnel. Welcome to Manhattan, you ain't seen nothing yet! Same deal as NJ, political appointed management & lots of relatives. There's an aircraft carrier birthed at the NY docks just after you leave the tunnel. Until one of NYC's finest got us straightened out, I was beginning to accept the "carrier" as our home. The other option was trade the Buick for a couple of shopping carts & start bagging it. At last our destination; across the street from St Pat's Cathedral. New problem; where do you park the car? No problem, 3 blocks away at \$40.00 per day (tax included)! No plans for the evening, so we're open for suggestions.

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## No waiting

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We're directed to Hurleys. Not being "late nighters" "Hurleys means to me other than another "Irish" pub. One rule of thumb; all restaurants are starving for business, don't ever, after being in the military service, stand in line for food. Hurleys was loaded (in more ways than one). I told the XYL to head up the stairs (never been there before :)). The "Captain" wants to know where we are headed. I w/o the XYL turn & head out the door. The "Captain" comes after me like I lifted the china. He asks where is my humor, I explain the tunnel trip. He bows & leads us to the second floor, leaving us with a great waiter. Hurleys: it finally hits me, the place that RCA built ther building around. The place all the "celebs" talk about. When your on Hurleys second floor & need a "john" guess where you travel to? The basement. Hello NY! Anyway if anyone can make friends with strangers, the XYL can handle the job.

While Dee is away from the booth, I continue to make "clinical" tests of various liquids. Remember we have a "great" waiter. The XYL finally returns. While journeying to the "john" Dee got into a conversation, with a real live NYC native. On our way to the street level of Hurley's Dee's friend hailed us to stop & have a drink at the bar. I don't recall her name but she was a super great person. She is a business 9-5'er on Manhattan. Her usual day; stops for a few & then heads for the barn. Your typical NYC bartender joined in. Turns out we had "golf" as a mutual hobby & swapped a few stories.

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## Hello Broadway

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The next night was an evening at a Broadway show. The theater finished at 10:45pm. We elected not to eat after the show. Guess what?; NYC restaurants close when the sun goes down, just like those here in Indiana. Lunch on Thursday was at the "Tavern on the Green" in Central Park. A little pricy, but different. Good food. The XYL doesn't like certain "cab drivers". We took a limo to the theater. On the return trip we took the "yellow cab", with the non-english speaking driver. What a ride? (ask Dee) Friday we "bailed out" the car & headed for

**See "Busted"**

**next page**

## Busted...continued

the Boston area. The Boston area? Correct, no one ever drives into Boston. We stopped in Framingham after a great lunch at a little "different" restaurant in Guilford CT.

At Framingham we booked a Boston Greyline tour for the next morning (9/13). Greyline gets you at the motel, runs the tour (abt 7 hrs) & returns you to the motel. Friday night dinner in Framingham was at the Legal Fish House. This chain is a little above your Red Lobster, but outstanding (bar ain't bad either). I'm not much on history but Saturday we did the old navy yard, saw the Constitution & and a docked (muesum type) destroyer. We did the Old North Tower neighborhood. Saw the narrowest house in Boston, 9.5 feet wide & 4 stories tall. The 4th story was occupied, our guide claims the 4th story tenant(s) pay at least \$500 a month. This is on Hull Street about a block to 1/2 block north of the old North Tower (across from the cemetery). Thank God we finally returned to the motel & then headed for dinner. Saturday was the death of the "Irish" at the hands of



### Ed and Dee after visiting the White House

Purdue. We found in Framingham a bar & grill called "The Villa". Price wise it would come out about like "Arch Rivals" (county line north & 135). Food was great, the service was outstanding. Usually people will say that people in the NE are not friendly. Let me tell you that is pure BS. On this trip we had the most courteous help & service we have ever received. Example: you could be standing around with that usual "I'm lost" look & someone would step up & ask if they could do something for you. This goes for NYC, Boston & the DC area. The people are great, once you get off the turnpikes!

One day in Boston is enough. Still fighting the "PL" systems. It's Sunday morning, we hit the church, breakfast & guess what to go from Boston to the DC area you will go thru NYC, unless you like the really long route. Hey, it's Sunday, NYC sleeps on Sunday. That's right, it was a breeze thru the big apple. They don't & neither does the entire NE sleep on Sundays, they go to NFL football games. Other than a 45 minute wait on (you got it) a NJ turnpike fuel island, we did real well until the outer belt at DC. The Redskins game finished just before we arrived. The outer belt went nuts, moving the "fans" to either MD or VA. (the PL systems are still with us) We sit for one hour thirty minutes on the east side of the George Washington Bridge. All of a sudden you find out, "who needs ham radio?" These "fans" who have just left the game; they just want to party. It turns out this is the world's greatest "tail gate" party. Bottom line, the tie up was a car that caught fire on the east bound side. We're all headed west, you can't even see the east bound traffic. Like I said, the world's greatest tail-gate party. Finally we make Alexandria.

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### Doing DC on \$5.00 a day

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Do DC this way. Stay in Alexandria, dine in Alexandria, don't miss the Ecco Bar & Grill. Use the "metro". After 9:30AM a \$5 pass is good until midnight, & you can go everywhere & have no fear, security wise. This was my 1st trip thru DC, it was more than I expected. God willing we'll do it again. (Jack the photo is a picture of the XYL & I leaving the White House after an overnight & breakfast with Bill & Hillary. That picture is what instigated the election funds investigation). Most beautiful part of the trip was the drive thru VA into W VA. Never saw such beauty. Lunched in Strausberg VA, at the Strausberg Inn. Stayed overnight at Beckley W VA. Next day, Lexington, around Cincy & finally back home. Great trip, would do the DC part anytime, but as usual always glad to be back in the barn and back to repeaters w/o PL tones.

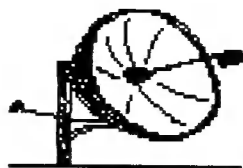
73 Ed (wd9dva@prodigy.net)

## ARRL goes MTV

Westwood One Radio Network staffer and ARRL member Phil Micari, KB2VOE, reports that the ARRL's radio public service announcement "They're All Hams" ran six times in August during an MTV (Music Television) simulcast concert featuring popular rock group Fleetwood Mac. The spot aired on 100 stations, including those in top markets such as New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles. Micari hopes to get the spot aired again during another concert on November 28. --Jennifer Gagne, N1TDY --ARRL Newsletter

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Del Middleton	K9ZON	11/02
Ed Hudock	W9YNF	11/03
James Dezarn	KB9NSX	11/06
Richard Jasinski	KB9LJM	11/07
Barbara Rogers	KB9NOG	11/10
Richard Shelton	N6RS	11/11
Lendel Cook	W9LNX	11/15
Linda Jasinski	KB9OHR	11/15
Nick Conner	K5BQJ	11/20
Michael Parks	N9PUO	11/21
Brian Davis	KG9DU	11/21
David Clay	N9XNT	11/23
Curt McCarty	N9JCI	11/24
Judith Montgomery	N9RDO	11/29



## Phase 3 on hold

Now that it's clear that the Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite definitely will not be aboard the Ariane 502 rocket later this month, AMSAT has begun angling with the European Space Agency (ESA) for a new launch opportunity. It's also asking hams to hold their tongues. AMSAT made official what most observers had already figured out for themselves--that the Phase 3D payload would not be going up at month's end. In late July, AMSAT announced that it would have to structurally modify the Phase 3D spaceframe to bring it up to new mechanical standards made necessary by a late change in ESA launch environment specifications. But, making the changes put Phase 3D out of sync with the Ariane 502 launch schedule. As a result, ESA concluded that Phase 3D would not be able to fly on the Ariane 502 mission as initially hoped. The soon-to-be-completed structural changes also added \$25,000 to Phase 3D's cost. ESA's action did not go over well with some hams who posted what AMSAT called "several derogatory comments regarding ESA" on the AMSAT bulletin board. AMSAT has defended ESA against the critics and declared that ESA "has been very supportive of AMSAT for almost 20 years."

The Program Board called on hams to "do everything we can to promote the successful launch of Phase 3D. The Board's statement stressed that "all of us should avoid doing anything that could possibly hinder" those talks.--ARRL Bulletin '97

## 1998 ARRL Handbook ready

The 1998 edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs is out and at a new, lower price. This marks the 75th edition of this standard electronics reference book, which will sell for \$32. Over 6 million copies have been sold since it was first published in the 1920s. Radio amateurs, electronic experimenters, engineers and technicians all have reserved a prominent place on their bookshelves for this essential electronics reference. The 1998 Handbook provides 1200 pages of radio communication and electronics information -- ARRL Newsletter 10/17/97



## Remember When...

From Spark Gap December 1988

At the November meeting the main topic was the repeater. The tower was completed, the Ham Shack almost completed, the repeater equipment in line and operating. N9DLN named the Repeater Committee. They are Larry Kemp, N9DLN-Trustee, Larry Oaks, WB9YAJ, Joe Vergara, KA9ZPA and Darrell Sego, KM9S. There are 5 keys to the new shack, one for each committee member and one for Town Marshall Otto Lewis. Thanks Larry!!!

At the November a vote was taken to charge \$10.00 for autopatch privileges. This was done to alleviate the strain on finances.



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# VE Team Questioned?

Some club members have apparently raised a question about the VE credentials of a new member of our VE team, especially in regard to his being eligible to administer CW tests in light of the recent FCC opinion regarding "waivered" code tests.

I have no reason whatever to doubt that this member of the team passed all required tests without using the waiver, and do not intend to question him further about it. I have known this member for many years, and know that he worked hard and long to pass the tests.

In the future, if any club member has a question about any aspect of the VE team or testing, I would appreciate it if you would contact me directly.

*David Wendt KA9OOH*

VE Team Manager

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